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REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending in the application. Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b). Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a). The Abstract was objected to.

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Objection to the Abstract

The Abstract was objected to because the Office Action states that the Abstract does not sufficiently describe the disclosure and the Abstract contains claim language.

Applicants have responded by replacing the Abstract with a new Abstract.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b)

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 6,819,921 issued to Mazzearella et al. on November 16, 2004.

Applicants have avoided this ground of rejection for the following reasons.

Applicants' claim 1, as amended, now recites,

"a portability component that automatically updates one or more provisioning components to port a directory number for a duration of time, wherein a value for the duration of time is one or more of a period of time, a date in the future, or a permanent status."

Mazzearella does not teach this limitation. This is because Mazzearella does not disclose or specify a time interval for the duration of a ported directory number. Thus, Mazzearella is missing the "wherein a value for the duration of time is one or more of a period of time, a date in the future, or a permanent status" elements of applicants' claim 1.

Thus, the clear teaching of Mazzearella is that a value for the duration of time is not one or more of a period of time, a date in the future, or a permanent status.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that Mazzearella does not describe each and every element of claim 1, and therefore claim 1 is not anticipated by

Mazzarella. Since claims 2-17 depend from allowable claim 1, these claims are also allowable.

Independent claims 18 and 21 each have a limitation similar to that of independent claim 1, which was shown is not taught by Mazzarella. For example, claims 18 and 21 recite, "wherein a value for the duration of time is one or more of a period of time, a date in the future, or a permanent status". Mazzarella does not teach this limitation for the above-mentioned reasons. Therefore, claims 18 and 21 are likewise allowable over Mazzarella. Since claims 19-20 depend from claim 18, these dependent claims are also allowable over Mazzarella.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a)

Claim 21 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Mazzarella in view of U. S. Patent Number 6,584,193 issued to Petrunka et al. on June 24, 2003.

Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

This rejection is based on the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) being proper. As that ground of rejection has been overcome, and none of the cited references teach or suggest "wherein a value for the duration of time is one or more of a period of time, a date in the future, or a permanent status", as recited in applicants' independent claims 1, 18 and 21, the combination of Mazzarella and Petrunka does not supply this missing element. Thus, this combination does not make obvious any of applicants' claims, all of which require the aforesaid limitation.

Claim Amendments

Claims 2-6, 8-10, 13-17 and 20 were amended to add the term "and". No new matter was added.

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Conclusion

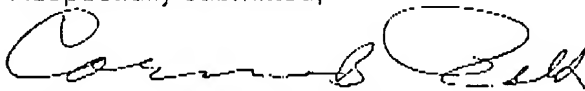
It is respectfully submitted that the Office Action's rejections have been overcome and that this application is now in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and allowance are, therefore, respectfully solicited.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, allowance of all claims pending is respectfully requested. If a telephone conference would be of assistance in advancing the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call applicants' attorney.

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Respectfully submitted,



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